



**1 in 4 school-aged children  
has a vision problem**

**Children's eye  
exams are  
covered by  
Manitoba Health  
for children  
under 19**

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It's important to ensure that a child's eyes are healthy and developing properly. Parents may think their child's vision is OK if they've passed a vision screening, but screenings are limited - they don't assess near vision ability, eye health, or how well the eyes work together as a team.

Vision screenings can't identify all visual problems. This may result in visual problems being missed, or misidentified as other learning issues.

Ensure your child isn't hindered in learning, play or how they see the world.

Make a comprehensive eye exam a regular part of your child's overall health care.

## COMPREHENSIVE EXAM

A comprehensive eye exam is performed by a Doctor of Optometry. It involves assessing visual acuity, eye alignment, eye muscle coordination, pupil function, pathways between the eye and brain, refractive error (testing if the child is far-sighted, near-sighted, or has astigmatism) and eye health.

Eye health is an equally important reason to have a comprehensive eye examination. A Doctor of Optometry can detect eye health problems related to environmental allergies, congenital cataracts, corneal disease and glaucoma, as well as potentially life-threatening conditions such as tumors.

## VISION SCREENING

Vision Screening tests are performed by volunteers in the community or in schools. The volunteers usually do not have formal training in vision.

Students are asked what they can see on a chart across a room to measure distance vision. They may also be asked to identify pictures or letters at reading distance to measure near vision. The vision screening may include a measurement of the student's depth perception and eye alignment. It does not include a physical evaluation of eye health.